

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5952

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG CU
SUBJECT: NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT: ROLE OF CUBA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. AUSTRALIANS SOUNDED OUT SIX NON-
ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) MEMBERS RE THEIR VIEWS ON CUBAN
ROLE. AUSTRALIAN INITIATIVE FOLLOWED DISCUSSION
BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK
ON CUBA AND THE NAM AT ANZUS WASHINGTON MEETINGS. IN
RUNDOWN GIVEN EMBASSY REP (AND REPEATED TO AMBASSADOR
RENOUF IN WASHINGTON) DFA REPORTED THAT IN THE
AUSTRALIAN VIEW "THERE WOULD NOT APPEAR TO BE MUCH SCOPE
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FOR NON-MEMBERS TO DRAW ATTENTION TO AN ISSUE WHICH HAS
IN RECENT WEEKS BECOME A CENTRAL PREOCCUPATION OF THE
NAM. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER SOUNDING OUT OFFICIALS IN EGYPT, YUGOSLAVIA,
INDIA, SRI LANKA, SINGAPORE, AND JAKARTA, DFA HAS CON-
CLUDED THAT MODERATE NON-ALIGNED STATES, WHILE PRE-

PARRED TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF CUBA'S ROLE IN THE NAM IN PRIVATE, WOULD PREFER THAT THE ISSUE BE CAREFULLY WORKED OUT WITHIN THE MOVEMENT ITSELF. ANY OBVIOUS INDICATION THAT WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE LOBBYING THE NAM ON THIS ISSUE COULD AT THIS STAGE FORCE NAM MEMBERS TO CLOSE RANKS AROUND CUBA. DFA FOUND IT SIGNIFICANT THAT TWO OF THE KEY MEMBERS OF THE NAM (YUGOSLAVIA AND INDIA) PUT THE MOST EMPHASIS ON SAFEGUARDING THE NAM AGAINST EXTREMIST PRESSURES AND ON RESTORING AN EMPHASIS ON THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF NON-ALIGNMENT.

3. IN SUMMARIZING REACTIONS OF THE SIX COUNTRIES CANVASSED, DFA REPS FOUND THAT: EGYPT IS DISTURBED BY CUBAN INTERFERENCE IN AFRICA AND BY ITS ROLE IN THE NAM. HOWEVER, EGYPT IS MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT THE WEST (ESPECIALLY THE U.S.) IS PREPARED TO DO TO RESTRAIN THE RUSSIANS. CAIRO NOTED, HOWEVER, THE YUGOSLAVIA HAD CAUTIONED EGYPT AGAINST ANY ACTION WHICH COULD ONLY REBOUND AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF PRO-WESTERN MEMBERS.

4. YUGOSLAVIA ACCEPTED THAT "IN ITS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES" CUBA WAS NON-ALIGNED AND THAT IT COULD NOT BE EXPELLED FROM THE NAM. IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DAMAGING TO YUGOSLAVIA AND ITS MODERATE ALLIES AND IT WOULD UNDERMINE YUGOSLAVIA'S OWN ATTEMPTS TO BRING CUBA TO HEEL IF YUGOSLAVIA WERE SEEN TO BE ACTING FOR THE WEST.
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5. INDIA WOULD NOT LIKE TO ADOPT A LEADING ROLE OR TAKE THE INITIATIVE ON THIS ISSUE. THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A CLEAR NAM CONSENSUS BEFORE INDIA WOULD ACT. INDIA WOULD NOT LIKE THE NAM TO BE POLARIZED OR DEFLECTED FROM ITS BROADER PURPOSES BY THE ACTIONS OF SOME OF ITS MEMBERS. THE NAM MUST NOT BECOME A GROUPING WHICH SOME MEMBERS USED MAINLY TO GATHER SUPPORT FOR THEIR OWN PARTICULAR VIEWS OR THOSE OF THEIR ASSOCIATES. INDIA DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY REFORM OF THE NAM SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF EXPULSIONS OR WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERS: INSTEAD THE "CENTRISTS" SHOULD ASSERT THEMSELVES AND SAFEGUARD THE TRUE PRINCIPLES OF THE NAM.

6. THE SRI LANKAN APPROACH IN GENERAL IS TO PLAY DOWN THE CONTROVERSY IN THE MOVEMENT AND TO HOPE THAT CUBA WILL SHOW A WILLINGNESS TO TAKE THE VIEWS OF MODERATE NAM MEMBERS INTO ACCOUNT. SRI LANKA DID NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY MOVE SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AGAINST CUBA'S POLICIES, ITS STATUS IN THE NAM, OR ITS ROLE AS HOST TO THE HAVANA SUMMIT, WOULD SUCCEED.

7. DFA'S OUNDINGS IN JAKARTA INDICATED THAT WHILE INDONESIA DOES NOT FAVOR CUBAN ACTION IN AFRICA, IT IS NOT IN A POSITION TO START AN ANTI-CUBAN MOVEMENT. MOREOVER, INDONESIA IS NOT LIKELY TO BE INFLUENCED BY OUTSIDERS ON ITS POLICY TOWARDS CUBA. INDONESIA WOULD, HOWEVER, PROBABLY SUPPORT THE MODERATES IF AN ATTEMPT WERE MADE TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST CUBA. DURING INDONESIAN-AUSTRALIAN TALKS IN FEBRUARY, THE INDONESIANS NOTED THAT DISARRAY IN THE NAM CAUSED BY THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE MODERATES AND RADICALS AND INDICATED THEY HAD TAKEN UP THE QUESTION WITH THE YUGOSLAVS WHO HAD IN TURN SPOKEN TO THE CUBANS. INDONESIA HOPED THAT CUBA WOULD MODIFY ITS STAND IN VIEW OF ITS ROLE AS HOST TO THE 1979 SUMMIT.

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8. SINGAPORE IS CONCERNED THAT CUBA IS DEVELOPING INTO AN INTERNATIONAL MILITARY AND POLITICAL FORCE, AND THAT IT IS PARTICIPATING IN VENTURES WHICH ARE NOT OF DIRECT CONCERN TO CUBA. FURTHER, THAT CUBA MIGHT SEEK TO USE THE NAM TO FURTHER ITS OWN INTEREST AT THE EXPENSE OF THE NAM. SINGAPORE, " IN VIEW OF ITS OWN MODERATE POSITION", WOULD NOT RPT NOT ACTIVELY PROMOTE A CAMPAIGN AGAINST CUBA BUT WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT IT.

9. IN CLOSING, DFA REP SAID THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD CONTINUE TO MONITOR THE CUBAN QUESTION BUT WISHED TO AVOID ANY IMPRESSION THAT THE GOA WAS SEEKING TO INFLUENCE NAM POLICIES.

ALSTON

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